

ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
January/February 2004



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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition
March 20th**

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday March 7th**

**Annual Dinner
Saturday March 6th**

**Being held in conjunction with
Limerick Rally
March 7th 2004.
Hosted by Limerick Radio Club**

**Enniskillen Rally
Sunday April 25th**

Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen

**Phoenix Amateur Radio Club
Annual Rally
Coolmine Community School
Sunday February 8th**



IRTS President Sean Donelan EI4GK and newly installed RSGB President Jeff Smyth MI0AEX pictured at the installation dinner in Belfast recently.

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8 Series Calls:	Gerald Kenneally EI8HT		<i>ei8ht@eircom.net</i>
9 Series Calls:	Mark Condon EI6JK		

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1045	144.275	SSB	Albert EI6AS
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	7.068	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, Gerry EI5HJ
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.500		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB



From the Editor.....

Welcome to another issue and thanks again to all who have contributed to the effort.

IRTS AGM & Dinner

The big event coming up is the IRTS AGM weekend on March 6/7th. This is being hosted by Limerick Radio Club and promises to be a very enjoyable outing.

The Limerick Rally is now the leading annual event in EI and should in itself attract a big crowd.

As well as all the usual attractions, a demo of Wireless Local Networking will take place as well as a hands on demonstration of Echolink using WAN technology.

The IRTS dinner is being held on the Saturday night and for a change there will be no music/dancing so patrons will have a chance to chat in peace. This is the one area of the weekend that always worries organisers as, generally speaking, we are all very slow to make commitments to attend these events. Do please contact Paul EI6FE or Sean EI4GK if you are going to attend. We look to forward to meeting many of you there.

QSLs

QSLs - you either love them or hate them and to most they are a necessary chore. However some of us actually enjoy dealing with QSL cards as can be demonstrated by the large number of amateurs who are willing to act as QSL managers worldwide.

I wonder if any of our readers would be willing to volunteer their services to act as QSL managers for those stations who find it impossible to handle the cards.

Field Days

Last years field days had more operators involved than we had seen for many years. Lets hope that trend continues. Now is the time to start planning your entry. It is the ideal activity for clubs and groups and the setting up of a restricted station in a central location can be a very enjoyable group outing. Decisions have to be made about this years events so if you intend taking part please let the Contest Manager Noel EI2JC know of your interest.

Forthcoming Book!

Reporting the Russo-Japanese War 1904-5

Lionel James First Wireless Transmissions to *The Times*

In the last edition of Echo Ireland, Tony EI5EM reported on the special station weekend in November at the Howth Martello tower, which commemorated and celebrated the centenary of Lee de Forest's experiments at Howth in 1903. Tony's mentioning of a forthcoming book has now come closer and in March, *Reporting the Russo-Japanese War 1904-5* will be published by Global Oriental, Folkestone, Kent.

It is the story of the wireless sets at Howth and Holyhead and how they were transported 12,000 miles to the Yellow Sea and used by a correspondent to report war news.

It was a 'first' in wireless and in the history of journalism.

It is a story of innovation and courage.

Lionel James, the war correspondent of *The Times* cruised on the s.s. *Haimun* in the war-torn Yellow Sea seeking news stories.

The wireless mast on the China coast to which he radioed his news was 180 feet high and it had taken 300 sailors to raise it.

Eventually, everyone was against James and his pioneering achievement - the Japanese banned him from the high seas, three British admirals spoke out against him and the Russians fired on him.

One of the starting points of this adventurous story is here in Ireland, at the Howth Martello tower.

It is planned to launch the book about mid-March in Howth and there will be a further update in the next edition of *Echo Ireland*.

Peadar EI2JA

Wanted QSL Managers

Are you interested in QSLs? Many EI stations who are very active are finding it difficult to deal with the ensuing volume of QSL cards. Maybe you can help?

If you are interested, please ring the Editor to discuss it further.

Dave EI4BZ, 087-6290574 or 021-4883555, evenings.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual General Meeting March 7th 2004 Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 1430 on Sunday April 27th 2003 at the Green Isle Hotel, Naas Road, Dublin 22.

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days notice prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President	Sean Donelan EI4GK
Vice-President	Sean Nolan EI7CD

Committee

EI2GN	John Ketch	EI5GM	Jeremy Sheehan
EI2HX	Pat Fitzpatrick	EI6JA	Stephen O'Leary
EI2JC	Noel Walsh	EI6JK	Mark Condon
EI2JD	Thos Caffrey	EI8JA	John McCarthy
EI3IX	Joe Fadden	EI9HX	Pat O'Connor
EI4BZ	Dave Moore		

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two paid-up ordinary members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

See Page 26 of the current Year Book for all the rules relating to elections.

IRTS AGM Dinner

Saturday 6th March 2004 at 8 p.m.

Peppered Fillet of Salmon set on a bed of mixed Leaves drizzled with a fresh Basil Oil Dressing

Tender Cubes of Chicken Sautéed with Wild Mushrooms flamed in Brandy set in a Puff Pastry Nest

Grilled Goats Cheese set on a Bed of Seasonal Salad glazed with a Pesto Dressing

~~~

*A rich Consommé of Chicken with Julienne of Savoury Pancake  
Homemade Fresh Cream of Vegetable Soup  
Cream of Wild Mushroom & red Pepper Soup*

~~~

*Pan Fried Chicken with a Chive Mash served with a Wild Mushroom Jus
Fillet of Beef with a lightly cracked Black Pepper Corn Sauce
Grilled Dover Sole with Lemon Butter accompanied with freshly ground Black Pepper*

Selection of Market Fresh Vegetables & Potatoes

~~~

*Greenhills Hotel Dessert Plate*

~~

*Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee  
Petit Fours*

*Tickets €37.00*

**Contact Paul EI6FE on 061-360122 or Sean EI4GK on 01-2821420**

## Catholic Scouts of Ireland Presentation to IRTS



Joe Dillon EI4GV (on left), representing the National JOTA Organiser of CSI Sean O'Suilleabhain EI3IP, presenting IRTS President Sean Donelan EI4GK with a framed certificate of appreciation for the Society's 40 years of support for Jamboree On The Air.  
On January 1st last, CSI merged with SAI to form Scouting Ireland.

## EURADIO

### European Union Radio Amateur Celebrations

#### Twinned Special Event Stations

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004, the European Union welcomes ten new states into the Union. Ireland will host the Presidency of the Union at that time

As part of the Enlargement celebrations, the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue T.D. has designated ten Irish cities and towns to be twinned with a particular new member state

A special event station is being planned for each of those cities and towns. The ten special event stations will be operational over the weekend of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

These special event stations will provide a unique opportunity to promote amateur radio locally and nationally, both here and in the twinned states.

An awards programme will be promoted amongst the international amateur radio community with certificates for stations that establish radio contact with the special event stations. .

The twinned cities and towns are as follows;

|          |           |             |                |
|----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
| Bray     | Cyprus    | Killarney   | Czech Republic |
| Cork     | Slovakia  | Letterkenny | Poland         |
| Drogheda | Latvia    | Limerick    | Slovenia       |
| Galway   | Estonia   | Sligo       | Hungary        |
| Kilkenny | Lithuania | Waterford   | Malta          |

Co-ordinators for each of these stations are currently being appointed and further details will be available shortly.

Enquiries should be directed to Sean Donelan EI4GK.

## Outgoing QSL Bureau



Pictured above is the outgoing QSL Bureau Manager, Anthony Baldwin EI8JK busy sorting your cards.

Members sending cards to the outgoing bureau are asked to read the rules of the bureau on page 16 of the 2003 IRTS Year Book.

Please make sure that a bureau exists for the cards you are sending out.

**Do not send cards to P.O. Box 462** as this will only incur additional postage costs.

Please send your cards directly to:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,  
Rathlin,  
Kilcrohane,  
Co. Cork.**

## IRTS Annual General Meeting

**March 7th 2004**

**Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.**

## Trophies and Awards

Nominations for all trophies must be with the Awards Committee on or before February 29th

## Construction Trophies

Entrants for the Construction Trophies must present their equipment to the Awards Committee before noon on the day.

## SWL Trophy

Entries for the Ian Morris Trophy must also be submitted before February 29th.

**All Trophies should be returned to Peter Grant  
EI4HX as soon as possible**

## IRTS and An Post

### **An account of the problems encountered with the mailing and delay in delivering the May/June issue of Echo Ireland.**

Sean, EI4GK, has handled the mechanics of mailing each edition of Echo Ireland in recent years. He collects the printed copies from the printer, attaches the labels to the envelopes, inserts the Newsletters, conveys the 900 or so envelopes to the Bray Sorting Office and pays An Post in bulk at the appropriate rate per item.

The computer-generated labels are produced by Joe EI7GY, the Society's Membership Officer, and are all sorted in accordance with the requirements of An Post. Thus, An Post receives its bulk mail sorted in a way that facilitates distribution while IRTS receives the benefit of the Periodical Postage Rate, which is somewhat lower than the normal rate.

This system worked well until it came to the distribution of the May/June issue of Echo Ireland on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003. On that date Sean delivered the usual consignment of Newsletters to the Boghall Road, Bray Sorting Office of An Post. When his own Newsletter had not been delivered by the following Monday, Sean telephoned Dave EI4BZ, the Newsletter Editor and asked him "to keep an eye on things" as he (Sean) was leaving the country on holidays the following day.

When the Newsletter was again not delivered on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Dave instituted inquiries with An Post to determine what had gone wrong. Following two days of frustrating phone calls he was informed that IRTS did not qualify for concessionary postage rates as it had not complied with An Post's sorting and bagging requirements.

Accordingly, the Newsletters were being held in the Dublin Mail Centre pending payment of additional postage. (It also transpired that the Supervisor of the Boghall Road Office had been trying to contact Sean to inform him of this).

At that stage the Treasurer, Brendan EI3GV was called upon to travel to Boghall Road and pay the additional postage amounting to some €14. Having done so, the Newsletter was finally delivered 10 days after posting.

On Sean's return, he sought to determine what had caused the problem, so he wrote to An Post seeking an explanation and incidentally requesting a refund of the additional postage paid on the July mailing. It transpired that An Post now had additional sorting requirements that had not been conveyed to IRTS. It was also necessary to bag and label each mailing (in 57 separate mailbags). It goes without saying, that the refund was refused.

Claiming that IRTS was unaware of these sorting and bagging requirements and that the 15 previous mailings had gone through the An Post system without a hitch, Sean appealed that An Post decision to An Post's Regulator. The Regulator felt that he had no jurisdiction in that particular area - Periodical Post - but suggested that IRTS take its case to either the Small Claims Court or the Ombudsman. IRTS decided that the latter course offered the best option, so a case was made to the Ombudsman.

In a decision recently received, the Ombudsman recommended to An Post that, in the circumstances of the case, a refund should be made to IRTS. A letter was also received from An Post stating "we have concluded that the original decision to refuse a refund was correct and the responsibility relies with the customer to ensure they comply with the terms and conditions of the service". "However", the letter went on "having taken the unique circumstances into consideration I have decided to pay you an ex-gratia payment of €14 as a gesture of goodwill".

In the context of the large sum of money paid by IRTS to An Post annually, €14 may seem a trifling amount. Nevertheless, the decision of the Ombudsman would seem to justify the action of IRTS in disputing the high-handed and customer unfriendly action taken by An Post in this case. Unfortunately, the grudging tone of An Post's recent letter enclosing the refund would seem to indicate that the leopard has not changed his spots.

*In any other business, the job would have been completed and an invoice issued for the shortfall. It's not like we were unknown and likely to go away.*  
Editor.

## Your Letters

### **Bad Attitude towards B Callsign Holders**

Dave,

I am very disappointed with the attitude towards B licensees in the radio experimenter community.

We have completed and passed the same theory test that full license holders have. Some people like myself have no interest in Morse and find that with the advent of computer modes it is an old and dated form of communication.

Most holders of B call signs which I have met, have a very high level of technical ability.

I myself did learn Morse and was up to 10 wpm, but when I heard that the requirement for Morse was going to be dropped I gave up on it.

Why learn something I was never going to use?

A few of us (i.e. B call sign holders) have build our own antennas, transmitted and experimented on 2.5 GHz, used all the computer modes and transmitted digital television pictures.

I know of many full callsign holders who are having trouble understanding these computer modes and I wonder how many would pass a theory test if these modes were included in more depth?

In the IRTS Newsletter of November/December Sean Donelan wrote:

"Morse is not about to go away so why not teach the newcomers to love the code rather than fear it."

Sean, if we wanted to teach Morse we would learn it, we don't need your help. We don't fear Morse Sean, we just don't want to use it.

Anthony O'Rourke wrote.

"... on a related, sad note the Australian Communications Authority (AVA) has approved the removal of Morse Code testing on the same date ..."

What's so sad about that?

To conclude, I really enjoy this hobby and have made many new friends (even full license holders), so it's time for a few people to come down from their high horses because at the end of the day, the ability to tap on a key does not make you a better operator.

The only way, I feel to stop this discrimination is to do away with the B callsign all together.

Many thanks,  
Tom Whelton EI8FXB



# On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,  
13 Hazel Road,  
Togher, Cork.  
ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to the first issue of "On the Air" for 2004, I trust you all had a good Christmas and New Year so far!

After the initial excitement towards the end of October and beginning of November from the large Solar Flares, 2004 ended up with just a whimper from the Sun, giving us nice, stable Geomagnetism resulting in quieter bands and some nice openings in the morning during our Grey Line.

At the time of writing though, a Major Geomagnetic Storm is in progress resulting from an impact of a Coronal Mass Ejection on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January which came from a C8.5 Flare seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

Indeed as I'm typing this on January 22<sup>nd</sup> I'm hearing some great signals on **10m** from C56/G0VUH and ZD7MY on St Helena, no doubt due to increased ionisation from the CME Impact saturating the Ionosphere.

## Band Reports

Surprisingly, not too many "Special Event" stations were to be heard to bring in the New Year hi! All I really heard was HG04HNY on from Hungary with a QSL route of HG4I.

The previous year was certainly not short of Major DXpeditions and "rare" ones coming on and those that are interested in "statistics" might like to know that there were 288 Entities active in 2003, down from 300 active in 2002 and also down from 299 in 2001.

Amongst the "goodies" we had operations from 3C0V (Annobon Island), AH3D (Johnston Atoll), BQ9P (Pratas Island), CY9A (Sable Island), S05X

(Western Sahara), ST0RY (Sudan), T31MY (Central Kiribati), TO4E (Europa Island), TS7N (Tunisia), TX4PG (Marquesas Islands), TZ6RD (Mali), VK9CD (Cocos-Keeling), VP6DIA (Ducie Island) and XZ7A (Myanmar).

Of all these possibly the most difficult to work were TO4E on Europa Island due to their tight restrictions on operating generators on the island due to it been a Wildlife Sanctuary and having to "share" the allocation of fuel given to the Military Garrison stationed there. Still, about 34,000 QSO's were finally made after some 200 hours on air and after having to delay their departure due to a tropical storm which lashed the island. I noticed about six EI's in the log and I was very happy to pick them up for DXCC #320 on **15m** CW.

A surprise appearance was George, V73GT, who came on from Wake Island (OC-053) as KH9/AH8H.

Burning up the airwaves from Afghanistan is Norwegian operator Johnny, LA5IIA and is QRV from Kabul as YA8G, with an IC-706 Mark IIG and Cushcraft R8 vertical. He is stationed there as part of his duties with UNICEF for the next five months or so.

In the same region, activity continues aplenty from Iraq (YI) as the situation there becomes less "chaotic" and more operators are able to get on the air. Darran, M1DAZ, is back in Iraq again working for the British Forces Broadcasting Services and using the same call, YI9DAZ from the southern city of Umm Qasar.

Also on air for the next six to eight

months is Kasper, YL1ZF, operating from Baghdad as YI9ZF and cards for this one go to SM1TDE.

Just after "firing up" this week is Dwayne, KE4RVT, who'll be there for 12-18 months as KE4RVT/YI.

Dane, S57CQ, finished up his operation from Bhutan as A52CQ on January 15<sup>th</sup> with 1,880 QSO's in the log, mostly from low bands contacts, cards go to his manager S57DX.

Heading onto "calmer" waters, a large group from Finland took on the task of dropping the Austral Islands (FO/A) down from the "most wanted" on the lower bands by putting on a major low band operation from Tubuai Island (OC-152) between January 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Aerials for the lower bands consisted of:

**160m:** 23 m high top loaded vertical with elevated radials.

**80m:** Two phased 1/4 verticals with elevated radials.

**40m and 30m:** Two phased dualband 1/4 verticals with elevated radials.

The team were comprised of the following Finnish operators: Henri/OH3JR, Veko/OH1AWW, Veijo/OH6KN, Kimmo/OH9MDV, Jouko/OH1RX and Merja (OH1RX's XYL), the more active call seemed to be FO/OH6KN, QSL manager is OH9MDV.

On tour around the Pacific also were Hungarian ops Sara, HA9SD, and Eli, HA9RE, who celebrated the New Year on Tuvalu (OC-015) with the call T20RE between January 1<sup>st</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> before moving onto Tonga as A35RE from January 20<sup>th</sup> to February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Cambodia (XU) had plenty of activity in the first weeks of the New Year with Hiro, JA2EZD, sporting his new call of XU7AAA up to January 7<sup>th</sup>, also on was Peter, NO2R, with the call XU7ACY from Sihanoukville between February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Dark Continent saw some good activity as well. Andy, LX1DA, is on until April 8<sup>th</sup> from Senegal as 6W/LX1DA running only 6 watts, and just fired up is Gus, SM5DIC, who will be on from 9Q0AR for the next two months.

TJ1GA were Italian ops Oscar, IK2AQZ, Giuliano, IK2OPW and Mario, IW2HUZ.

Possibly gone QRT by the time you read this will be VE4JOP, Orlando, who was on during the month of January from

(Continued on page 7)



## XF4MX

Operators:

☒ XE1MX Mark SSB  
☐ XE1FRF Fabian CW

Socorro I.  
lat. N 111° 00'  
long. W. 18° 45'



CQ 06  
ITU 10  
IOTA NA 030

TO AMATEUR RADIO STATION:

# EI2HY

| DATE |       |      |      | U.T.C. | TWO WAY QSO |    | MHz | UR SIGNAL |   |  |
|------|-------|------|------|--------|-------------|----|-----|-----------|---|--|
| DAY  | MONTH | YEAR | IN   |        | R           | S  |     | T         |   |  |
| 18   | march | '99  | 1725 |        | SSB         | 28 | 5   | 9         | - |  |

QSL MANAGER XE1MX

☐ PSE

☒ TNX QSL,73's

Mark.

**Archipelago of Revillagigedo**

Formed by four volcanic Is. Socorro, Clarion, San Benedict and Roca Partida at about 500 miles west from the Mexican coast in the Pacific. The climate is arid. Tropical depressions and hurricanes occur in summer. Pluvial precipitation is rare, temperature may vary from 19° C to 28° C. In 1994 The Archipelago of Revillagigedo was decreed a National Reserve of the Biosphere. Therefore, in order to visit it a special permit has to be granted by the Mexican Government.

(Continued from page 6)

Burkina Faso as XT2OP.

Bill, W5SJ, was quite active as PR0F (SA-003) from the QTH of PY0FF on Fernando de Noronha during his stay from January 20-27<sup>th</sup>.

Heading a good bit south from PY0F we had plenty of action from Antarctica which is in the middle of its "summer" now and that means plenty of operating from the various bases scattered around the frozen Continent.

IA0PS was Filippo, IK0AIH, on from the Italian Baia Terranova Station and LZ0A was on from the South Shetlands. Also on the South Shetlands is CE9R operating at the "Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva Base" along with SP5QF, Voytek, QRV as HF0QF.

Nikolai Makarov, UA3YH/AB0KG (R1ANM) is active as KC4AAA from the Amundsen-Scott Base (South Pole, AN-016).

Alan, 9V1DX, of Macquarie Island fame (VK0LD/VK0MM) was on an unusual expedition to Antarctica between December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup> when he was supporting a team of mountaineers who were climbing Mount Vinson, the highest mountain in Antarctica.

Sporting the specially issued call 9V0A Alan caused a bit of confusion when people thought he was in Singapore hi! Incidentally, Alan was due to go to Heard Island (AN-003) with an Australian scientific expedition but due to this commitment had to cancel it!

A regular series of trips are planned for Heard Island so hopefully there will be a ham onboard at some stage.

The IOTA chasers amongst us had a few interesting islands to keep us on our toes over the Festive Season.

Having missed VK4WWI/9 who activated a new one, OC-265, (see last issue) during the start of December, I was pleasantly surprised to work VK4GL/P during the morning of December 17<sup>th</sup> who was on from Cato Island (OC-265) during a fishing trip.

On from other Australian IOTA's we had VK2IAY/4 (OC-160) who later went onto OC-171 with the same call before ending up his tour by activating OC-137.

A rare one popped up when the Royal Omani Society made a trip to Suwadi Island (AS-112) as A43SI.

Also very rare is NA-189 which had some French IOTA enthusiasts coming on with XF1/F5TTY, XF1/F6AOI, XF1/F6BFH and XF1/F9IE.

Rounding up the rare ones, CE6TBN/8 came on from SA-032.

CQ 15

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

ITU 28

Supported by:



# 1A0KM

To Radio:  
1A0KM confirms the following QSO(s):  
Date Time Band 2way RST  
1998-Jul-26 11:44 28 SSB 59

QSL manager:  
IK0FVC, FRANCESCO VALSECCHI  
Via G. Bitossi, 21  
I-00136 Roma - ITALY

EI2HY

VERIFIED BY  
73  
IK0FVC

## 1A0KM

Starting off 2004 was one of the more unusual DXCC Entities in the guise of 1A0KM which operates from the Headquarters in Rome of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, known more commonly as the Order of Malta or the Knights of Malta.

Founded by a Brother Gerard in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century it was formally recognized by the then Pope Pascal II in 1133 A.D and it's the fourth oldest religious order of the Catholic Church.

The motto of the Order has been the same since 1099, *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum* - to defend the faith and to serve the poor.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is a sovereign subject of international law.

The Order - which is based in Rome, in via Condotti - has its own Government, an independent magistracy, bilateral diplomatic relations with 93 countries (not Ireland though hi!) and is granted the status of Permanent Observer in many international organisations, such as the United Nations.

Its operational activities are managed by the six Grand Priorities, four Sub priorities and 45 National Associations of Knights in the five continents and even issues its own passports and stamps.

This makes the Orders Headquarters Villa Magistrale all'Aventino" in Rome an "extraterritorial zone" and eligible for DXCC status. The team was QRV over the weekend of January 2<sup>nd</sup> up to the 5<sup>th</sup> and QSL's this time go to IK0FTA.

## Your Logs

Having received no logs this issue I'm afraid there's not much of interest in the '2HY log (as usual hi!) just picked up D2PFN and YA8G on RTTY for new ones on that mode, some of the IOTA's mentioned above and just two contacts

on 6m between December and January SP2BDR in JO83UA on December 21<sup>st</sup> and EH7HG in IM87CS during Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Up and Coming

After the good run of rare DXCC Entities been put on last year, 2004 shows no sign of letting up with rumours of ultra rare ones like Scarborough Reef (BS7H), Navassa (KP1), Desecheo (KP5), Andaman Islands (VU4) and the Lakshadweeps (VU7) set to see some "action".

Already, as mentioned elsewhere, we started off with 1A0KM, due on (or even finished) by the time you receive this is Aves Island (YV0), cancelled though was the British led trip to Eritrea (E3) planned for about now. This was put off due to the (again) unstable political conditions in the region.

The "rarer" of the VP8's, the South Orkneys (AN-008) should be heard a bit more this year as Henry, LU4DXU, will arrive and operate from the Orcadas Base on Laurie Island until February 29<sup>th</sup> using the special call AY1ZA. He plans to then leave his rig behind as part of the LU1ZA club station.

If you have some spare time and cash here's two trips that might interest you. Charles, K5LBU, is looking for some fellow hams to head to Swaziland (3DA0) in mid March and also a second group to head to Botswana (A2) scheduled for July, but by far the more exciting of the trips with room for some hams is a 21 day fly fishing trip around Clipperton Island (FO0C) planned for March and put together by Ted Dunn, owner of that famous ham charter vessel the "Shogun". If (by some remote chance) you are interested contact Bob Grim-mick, N6OX, at n60x@dslextrême.com.

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

Staying in that area, plans are afoot to put Revilla Gigedo Archipelago (XF4) on the air from February 29<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The team will include XE1IH, Enrique; XE1J, Jose; XE1AVM, Ismael; XE1GRR, Rafael; XE1KOF, Javier; XE1XR, David; XE1GLL, Luis; and XE2ML, Martin and the call sign used will be XF4IH.

The Revilla Gigedo Islands lie 550km from mainland Mexico and comprise three volcanic Islands and one rock, the operation will take place from Isla Socorro (NA-030), also known as Santa Tomas Island, which is 13km long by 10km wide and has had a Mexican Naval Base there since 1957.

The other Islands which make up the Archipelago include Clarion Island, also known as Santa Rosa Island, which measures 8km by 3km and has its own separate IOTA number of NA-115, San Benedicto Island, 5km by 1km wide and lastly, Roca Partida which measures just 90m long by 45m wide by 33m high.

Staying with the islands, DL7VOG plans to head back to the Providencia Isl (NA-049) part of San Andres and Providencia Islands DXCC Entity and will use the same call HK0GU fm Mar 18<sup>th</sup> to Apr 5<sup>th</sup>.

A large group of French Amateurs are going to Togo (5V) for a week long large scale activation during the timeframe of March 6<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> using the call 5V7C (seems to be a rash of calls ending in "Charlie" planned, 3B9C, 5V7C, T33C hi!). Operators will be: F4AJQ, (Franck), F5CW, (Dany), F5JSD, (Pascal), F5TVG, (another Franck), F5VHQ, (John) and finally F8BUI, (Romain).

Doing a one man operation with an FT100 and G5RV will be Jan, PA9JJ, who will be on from the Gambia as C56JJ from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jim, W4PRO is heading for Bhutan to take part in the CQ WPX SSB Contest towards the end of March during his ten days activity as A52PRO from March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Heading to the Pacific for a two DXCC Island hop are DL1VKE and DF2SS who plan to be on, first, from Samoa (5W) and then Niue (ZK2), all this planned for March 25<sup>th</sup> through to April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Strangely enough two other hams are planning the exact same trip, but this time in July, with Ted, K8AQM, and Dave, K8AA, coming on as 5W0TR and 5W0DL from July 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and then QRV as ZK2TR and ZK2DL between July 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

Back to Africa and we'll see British Hams G4AXX, Mark; GU4CHY, Dick;

G4JVG, Steve; and M5RIC, Rich hoping to be on from Malawi (7Q) from April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The ham publication "DX Magazine" has just printed it's annual "Most Wanted" listings and the Top 10 are:

- 1) Scarborough Reef (BS7H),
- 2) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (VU4),
- 3) North Korea (P5),
- 4) Lakshadweep Islands (VU7),
- 5) Peter 1<sup>st</sup> (3Y0),
- 6) Yemen (7O),
- 7) Juan De Nova & Europa (FR/J & FR/E),
- 8) Navassa Island (KP1),
- 9) Desecheo Island (KP5),
- 10) Aves Island (YV0).

We've already had Europa on, Aves should be finished and if rumours are to be believed, half of the Top 10 are due to be on this year hi!

Finally, at a recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in January at Windsor, Connecticut it was decided to remove one of the three main conditions that a proposed new DXCC Entity had to meet before becoming a "new one".

The paragraph in question, 1c, was the one that stated "An Entity will be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it ...has a separate IARU Member Society." Since that time, the rule has allowed for the addition of four new DXCC Entities (Chesterfields, Ducie, etc) and the retention of one existing Entity, so what, you may ask?

Well up until this rule was removed there were plans for no less than three definite new ones and possibly a fourth! How? Well if the resident Amateurs on Easter Island had formed an IARU approved Society, then a little rocky islet called Salas Y Gomez (SA-085) which lies 225 nm to the east, would "gain" DXCC Status, likewise Swains Island (OC-200) part of the Samoa Island chain would be a new one, as would Gough Island (AF-030) which lies near its "parent" country Tristan Da Cunha.

All this means that existing new Entities which were created through the Member of IARU will stay.

The two remaining criteria are:

- a) The entity is a UN Member State.
- b) The entity (except international organizations) has been assigned a call sign prefix block by the ITU.

That's it for this issue; my thanks to the Daily DX for some news items, until next time, keep listening!

73 de EI2HY

## SDR 40m Portable DXing

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, members of South Dublin Radio Club were active on 40 metres from Trooperstown Hill in Co. Wicklow. EI7HT Tom, EI2JO Kyle, EI9JF Nicki, EI/GI0PCU Alan and G3ZEV Robby braved the cold which reached minus 6 in the middle of the night. The experiment using a Bobtail antenna was very successful and thank you to all stations that called in. There was DX worked late into night and early morning using both 100 watts and QRP.

The antenna should get its next outing in March where some modifications will be made to the existing design.

Kyle EI2JO

## South Eastern A.R.G.

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Group has been announced for Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2004. All members are asked to attend. More details will be announced soon.

Members of the group enjoyed a Christmas get-together on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December last.

A good night was enjoyed by all.

### UK Rally Trip

We are currently looking at the viability of organising a trip to one of the UK rallies later this year. Details of this were discussed at the general meeting on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

The group meet monthly, on the last Wednesday, in the Roanmore Sports and Social Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford. All are welcome!

Please visit the Groups web site at [www.searg.com](http://www.searg.com). Their e-mail address is [info@searg.com](mailto:info@searg.com).

## Tipperary A. R. G.

The Tipperary Amateur Radio Group would like to wish all their Members and fellow Experimenters a peaceful New Year.

The Group held their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner in the Galtee Inn in Cahir on Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> night and an excellent meal was enjoyed by the good attendance who wine and dined till the small hours.

The Group meet on the first Wednesday each month in Raheen House Hotel Raheen Road Clonmel.



## Repeater News

Two new repeaters have recently been licensed by ComReg and both are now in service

### South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Southeast Amateur Radio Group have had to remove their 2 Metre Repeater from Mount Leinster due to an incurable cross-mod problem. This has been replaced by a new repeater on the 70cm band.

The Callsign is EI2>>> and the output is on 430.950 MHz with the input on 438.550 MHz.

A new site is being sought for the 2m repeater removed from Mt. Leinster.

### East Cork Amateur Radio Group

The East Cork Group have a new 70cm repeater located in Ballygarvan, just south of Cork City. The output is on 430.900 and the input is on 438.500 MHz.

It is linked to the Helvick Head repeater on 145.675 MHz. The callsign is EI2>>>

### EI9ED Facilities in Co. Cavan.

The following are the amateur radio and TV facilities on the EI9ED site in Co Cavan:

EI7KRR RB3 433.075 Tx 434.675 Rx, 15W CTCSS + 1750 Hz with links to 144.750 ATV Talk back channel protected by Tone Burst.

EI7KRC-4 4 meter packet link

EI7KRC-2 2 meter packet link

EI2ATR ATV Repeater 1276 Tx 1249 Rx (13 cms)

EI3ATR ATV Repeater 10.040 Tx (3cms)

ATV Repeaters linked and controlled on 144.725 via DTMF.

All equipment licensed by COMREG and comply with COMREG regulations i.e. tone protected, remote switch off, and ID.

Site location 53 degrees 43 / 006 degrees 53; 1000 ASL.

## Cost of mailing Echo Ireland rises by 36.36%

With effect from January 5th, the cost of publication services rate postage as applied to Echo Ireland goes up from 44p to 60p. At its present weight, it can be mailed as normal letter mail for 60p, thus removing the need to pre-sort into sixty different bags.



## Reading the Mail

By

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #28 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 22 November 2003 to 23 January 2004.

Perhaps due to other seasonal distractions but there was not the usual volume of mail from overseas and I have not much therefore to put into this report.

I can say that small packets (less than 1 kilo) came from BFRR Belarus, HRS Croatia, LABRE sections for Amazonas and Florianopolis, OVSV Austria, RCC Chile, USKA, VK2 and YO2.

Nonetheless I was well occupied with larger parcels that came from JARL, RAC Canada, SSA, (1 – 2 kilos each); the one significant heavyweight from ZRS Slovenia (5 kilos) came in its own mailbag.

Cards from the following were noticed and thought worthy of mention:

CA2UWK, HS0ZEA, SI9AM, and 9N1HP.

As well as cards from many Brazilian, Canadian, Croatian and Japanese islands, for IOTA chasers the following were noticed: R1/EW1MA, W8DLI/WH0, XR5SM, ZK1KDN, and 5R8FU.

Congratulations to all recipients.

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX in 2004.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.

## Contest Calendar

### February 2004

|          |           |                                    |      |
|----------|-----------|------------------------------------|------|
| 7/8th    | 0001-2400 | 10-10 International Winter Contest | SSB  |
| 14//15th | 0000-2400 | CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest          | RTTY |
| 14/15th  | 1200-1200 | Dutch PACC Contest                 |      |
| 14/15th  | 2100-0100 | RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest               | CW   |
| 21/22nd  | 0000-2400 | ARRL DX Contest                    | CW   |
| 28/29th  | 0000-2359 | CQWW 160m                          | SSB  |
| 28/29th  | 0600-1800 | REF Contest                        | SSB  |
| 28/29th  | 130-1399  | UBA DX Contest                     | CW   |

### March 2004

|         |           |                           |      |
|---------|-----------|---------------------------|------|
| 6/7th   | 0000-2359 | ARRL DX Contest           | SSB  |
| 20/22nd | 0200-0200 | BARTG Spring RTTY Contest | RTTY |
| 20/21st | 1200-1200 | Russian DX Contest        |      |
| 27/28th | 0000-2400 | CQWW WPX Contest          | SSB  |

### April 2004

|         |           |                     |           |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 3/4th   | 1500-1500 | SP DX Contest       |           |
| 3/4th   | 1600-1600 | EA RTTY Contest     | RTTY      |
| 10th    | 1500-1900 | EU Sprint           | SSB       |
| 12th    | 1300-1500 | IRTS 2m Counties    | SSB/FM/CW |
| 17th    | 1500-1900 | EU Sprint           | CW        |
| 17th    | 0000-2359 | Holyland DX Contest |           |
| 17/18th | 1200-1200 | YU DX Contest       |           |
| 17/18th | 1200-1200 | GACW DX Contest     | CW        |
| 24/25th | 1200-1200 | SP DX RTTY Contest  | RTTY      |
| 24/25th | 1300-1300 | Helvetia Contest    |           |



# Project Star Reach (3B9C)

March/April 2004

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, and Don Field, G3XTT



By now, most readers will be aware of Project Star Reach, the next project to be undertaken by the Five Star DX Association (FSDXA) who organised the 1999 9MOC and 2001 D68C DXpeditions. The latter, incidentally, is still the only DXpedition to have achieved over 100,000 QSOs, with its massive total of 168,000. The forthcoming expedition, to Rodrigues Island, will sign 3B9C and will be active from around 19<sup>th</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April.

One of the successes of the D68C Comoros Island DXpedition was the way in which it brought some 3,400 UK amateurs onto the HF bands to work the expedition. That's probably close to 10% of all the amateurs in the UK who were licensed for HF operation at that time. Many had brushed off their old valve transceivers to work the expedition, and some clubs organised special club nights so that those who had limited stations at home could still have a shot at D68C. Many of these amateurs would probably not have bothered with other HF DXpeditions; there is often a feeling that DX chasing is only for those with huge antennas and kilowatts of power. But the FSDXA team had made a point of taking plenty of hardware themselves, so that the chasers stood a good chance, even with modest stations of their own. The 3B9C organisers feel that a similar level of participation can be reached in many more countries too, with the right encouragement, hence this article.

Since 2001, many more HF operators have come onto the bands, through new licence structures and, most recently, through the abolition of mandatory Morse testing in many countries, leading to former VHF-only licencees being granted HF privileges for the first time. FSDXA selected Rodrigues Island in the Indian Ocean as a suitable location around which to base this project (so called because the expedition itself is just one part of it, albeit the central element). Rodrigues has just one resident amateur, and has seen no DXpedition activity since 1999, almost half a sunspot cycle ago. Yet it's accessible enough to permit the shipping of the six tonnes of equipment that the expedition



will require and should have excellent propagation to the major centres of amateur radio population (Japan, Europe and the USA). An advance team has already been out to Rodrigues to ensure that the necessary logistics are in place, and to establish relationships with key local contacts (including Robert 3B9FR, the resident amateur mentioned above).

But Project Star Reach is very much aimed at you, the reader. The organisers are keen to ensure that you are able to participate through making contact with 3B9C on a range of bands and modes and chasing after one of the attractive trophies on offer. For seasoned DXers, that means being able to fill in those 3B9 band slots that you might still be missing, but hopefully it will also mean that you try out a new band or mode, perhaps satellite or PSK. For those new to HF, while the team certainly can't guarantee you a contact on all nine bands, almost everyone should be able to manage at least a handful of QSOs. The main purpose of this short article is to give you some advice on how best to go about doing so.

One of the tough decisions DXpeditions have to make is when to operate on each band. Anyone who has operated from near the equator will know that only the highest bands are open during local daylight, but from dusk to dawn all nine HF bands can be open simultaneously. With anything less than nine stations available, some will have to be missed. The good news is that 3B9C will be able to operate all nine bands at once (Yaesu, Principal Sponsors, are providing ten FT-1000MP MkV transceivers and ten VL-1000 Quadra amplifiers) and, all being well, may even be able to activate more than one station on some bands

(10, 15, 20 and 80) to be active on both CW and SSB together. So, if there is an opening from your area to 3B9 on a particular band, rest assured that 3B9C will be there for you.

## Propagation and choice of band

That brings us to propagation, of course. Many DXpeditions nowadays run propagation forecasts for the major geographic areas, and post them on the DXpedition Website. 3B9C is no exception. But if you live elsewhere in the world, or want to run some much more specific predictions for your own QTH, there are plenty of propagation prediction software packages available which allow you to do it yourself. Follow some of the links at the end of this article for some good examples. Rest assured that the 3B9C team themselves have done similar analyses and will be aware of where their beams should be pointing on any given band and at any given time. Almost certainly, the easiest bands on which to look for your first QSOs with the expedition are going to be 20, 17 and 15m. As the sunspots start to reduce in number, openings on the highest bands become less frequent, while the low bands are always a tougher challenge, with greater absorption and higher noise levels.

Of course, most serious DXers have gain antennas for 20, 15 and 10m; often a triband Yagi or even stacked monobanders. So even on those bands you may well have to wait your turn for a QSO (the good news is that 3B9C will be active for three full weeks and four weekends). Far fewer DXers have gain antennas for 30, 17, and 12m, so 17m may well be an excellent band on which to focus to make that first 3B9C QSO (or, indeed, to chase other DXpeditions).

This highlights one of the dilemmas facing the would-be HF operator. With nine HF bands available, not to mention the VHF bands, how on earth can you put up an effective antenna system to cover them all? Unless you live on a farm, the answer is probably "no way". This is why low-profile multiband antennas such as trapped verticals or the G5RV

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are so popular but, inevitably, they are a compromise. It's often forgotten, for example, that when Louis Varney G5RV came up with his ground-breaking antenna design, not only did the WARC bands not exist, but neither did 15m. And in no way was the antenna expected to present a resistive 50-ohm load to the transmitter but, in those days of valve PA's, it didn't really matter! Modern solid-state rigs may behave differently, and reduce power in the face of what they see as a mismatch.

### A simple alternative

In the RadCom article which preceded the D68C expedition, the team recommended, instead, to focus on one band at a time, and to install a resonant sloping dipole, orientated towards D6. This led to a great deal of positive feedback after the expedition, many operators discovering that such an arrangement worked much better on that specific band than their multiband system, allowing them to work the expedition much more easily. So the recommendation is very much the same again. A full-size, resonant dipole, cut according to the standard dimensions, out in the clear and, ideally, sloping and orientated towards 3B9C is an excellent starting point for those of you without Yagis or other gain antennas. Suitable dimensions are given in Table 1 (you may need to modify them slightly to achieve best SWR, as lengths can be affected by surrounding objects, etc.).

**Table 1: Lengths of half-wave dipole antennas**

| MHz  | Feet | Metres |
|------|------|--------|
| 7    | 66.0 | 20.1   |
| 10.1 | 46.3 | 14.1   |
| 14   | 33.0 | 10.0   |
| 18   | 25.8 | 7.86   |
| 21   | 22.0 | 6.70   |
| 24.9 | 18.8 | 5.73   |
| 28   | 16.5 | 5.00   |

The antenna can be suspended from a chimney or gutter, perhaps. Feed with 50 or 75 ohm co-ax, with the centre conductor to the higher half and the outer to the lower half. Seal the feedpoint to keep out moisture, with insulators at either end and you have an excellent single-band antenna. On the low bands, of course, such an arrangement starts to get prohibitively large, so other approaches have to be tried. 3B9 is a long way from

most centres of population, so arrival angles will be low. Even on 40m, the half-wave above ground required to achieve low angle radiation from a horizontal antenna is 20m (67ft), so it is much easier to use some sort of vertical. Actually, on 40m, that then becomes quite easy. A full-size quarter-wave vertical is just 10m (33ft) high and takes up almost zero ground space! Of course, like any vertical, it will only work properly with an effective ground system, but for practical purposes this means running out as many radials as you can, of whatever length, in whichever directions they can go. Very few of us have the space to put down a textbook radial mat with, for example, 120 quarter-wave radials at exact spacings of 3 degrees! One of the authors has had great success on 40m with an elevated ground-plane consisting of a 10m glass-fibre fishing pole, with the quarter-wave radiator wire running up its length (held with insulating tape), mounted on an insulating support (old fence post, or whatever) just a metre or so high, with two elevated quarter-wave radials (if you use elevated radials, do not have an earth connection in addition). Feed the centre of the co-ax to the vertical radiator and attach the outer to the radials.

### Rigs and operating techniques

Having discussed the antenna system, what about your transceiver? The answer is that most transceivers these days are more than capable of doing the job, and almost all elderly ones are too. The only feature you will need that you may not be using in your day-to-day rag-chewing is split-frequency capability. 3B9C, like almost all DXpeditions, will operate split-frequency at all times in the early parts of the expedition, though may revert to co-channel working later, when the pile-ups diminish, for those without the capability. What is split-frequency operation, and why is it used?

Quite simply, DXpeditions transmit on one frequency and listen on a different frequency.

For example they will transmit on 28.495MHz and listen between 28.500 and 28.520MHz. There are two reasons:

1. If the DXpedition station listens on the frequency on which it is transmitting, it will not be heard by those calling because of the pile-up on that frequency.
2. The DXpedition operator will be faced with a huge barrage of calls and will not be able to differentiate between



them if they are all calling on the same frequency.

Experienced DXpeditioners will tune slowly up and down their listening band. Listen to the stations working the DXpedition and establish the operator's tuning pattern. Work out where he is likely to be listening next and then call – bingo! Never, never transmit on the DXpedition's transmitting frequency unless the DXpedition says "Listening this frequency".

On CW, generally all you will need to do is set your receiver to the 3B9C frequency and then use XIT (transmitter-incremental tuning) to offset your transmitter by the necessary split (see your transceiver manual if you haven't had occasion to do this before). Activating RIT (receiver incremental tuning) will also allow you to hear the calling stations, while leaving your main receive frequency on 3B9C.

RIT and XIT usually only work for splits of up to 10kHz, which may not be sufficient for SSB operation. In this case you need to bring your second VFO into operation. Set, say, the A VFO on the 3B9C frequency. Set the B VFO on the frequency where 3B9C is listening, and activate "Transmit on B, receive on A". Again, your transceiver's manual will explain how to do this.

When 3B9C responds to your call, the exchange will consist simply of an exchange of signal reports. Make sure the 3B9C operator also has your callsign correct. The reason for the short, contest-style exchange is simple – the expedition operators want to maximise the number of people who get a chance to work 3B9C, so contacts are kept as short as possible. Information such as QSL route, etc. have been announced in this magazine and elsewhere, and there will even be a log lookup facility on the 3B9C Web Page so you can be sure that you are in the log OK. If not, then do

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(Continued from page 11)

feel free to have a second attempt. If your contact is, indeed, OK, then please try to work 3B9C on other bands and modes.

So where on the bands will you find 3B9C? The plan is to focus initially on the frequencies listed below, subject to change for technical or operational reasons. In any case, the team is well aware that band plans in some countries, including the USA, restrict certain classes of operator to sub-sections of the band. This will not only be reflected in the range of listening frequencies used, but in transmitting frequencies as the DXpedition progresses. With widespread use of PacketCluster (via VHF/UHF and Internet) and the DX Summit Web pages, even if you don't hear 3B9C immediately, you should always be able to find out very easily where the expedition is currently operating.

Regarding the above frequencies, note

| MHz  | CW    | SSB   | RTTY  |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1.8  | 1822  | 1842  | N/A   |
| 3.5  | 3502  | 3795  | 3570  |
| 7    | 7002  | 7047  | 7035  |
| 10.1 | 10102 | N/A   | N/A   |
| 14   | 14022 | 14195 | 14085 |
| 18   | 18072 | 18145 | N/A   |
| 21   | 21022 | 21295 | 21085 |
| 24.9 | 24892 | 24945 | N/A   |
| 28   | 28022 | 28595 | 28075 |
| 50   | 50102 | 50145 | N/A   |

PSK31 activity will be around 14071, 21071 and 28071kHz.

Satellite will be via AO-40 and any EME operation will take place on 70cm.

that the team is aware of at least one other major DXpedition to be active while 3B9C is still on the air, so may decide to change transmitting frequencies to avoid confusion. Typically, a DXpedition SSB station transmitting on 14.195 MHz will listen up in the range 14.200 to 14.220 MHz. If 3B9C finds itself operating on the same transmit frequency as another DXpedition it will, for example, move down around 5kHz typically to 14.190 MHz and will then listen down say between 14.165 and 14.185 MHz so as to split the pile ups and avoid confusion.

Listen to the operator carefully. Each has been briefed to give the 3B9C call-sign at least after every two QSOs and to announce the listening frequencies every five QSOs. Incidentally, 3B9C will not work by numbers; believing that with

good ears and equipment this is quite unnecessary.

There really isn't the space here to discuss how to get started with the more specialist bands and modes, but the team does encourage readers to have a go. There have been many articles written about getting started on RTTY and PSK, which is straightforward using a personal computer and its built-in sound card. There will be a section on the 3B9C Web site giving some hints and tips, with links to useful references. The same is true of satellite and EME. The latter requires a well-equipped station, but satellite operation through AO-40 doesn't require large investments in equipment, especially if you already have a 70cm multimode radio (3B9C will be using the popular FT-847) and 70cm Yagi. Again, follow the links on the Web page for suitable advice on getting started.

### Nevada Rodrigues Trophies

As an encouragement to both individuals and clubs to work 3B9C on a wide range of bands and modes, Nevada Communications of the UK is sponsor-



**Nevada Rodrigues Trophy**

ing some trophies to be known as the Nevada Rodrigues Trophies. There are 22 separate categories, covering all continents, both newly-licensed operators and old-hands, SWLs, and club entries. The trophies themselves will be an attractive locally-made model of a sailing pirogue, as used by the Rodrigues Islanders. For those who don't qualify for a trophy, but hit pre-determined numbers of band-slots, there will be a range of certificates. Full rules and how to apply can be found on the 3B9C Web site.

### Sponsorship

A significant number of sponsors, led by Principal Sponsor Yaesu, is already supporting this DXpedition. A colour brochure has been prepared about the pro-

ject and has recently been circulated to DX clubs throughout the world.

If any club is interested in sponsoring Project Star Reach then please contact Bob Beebe GU4YOX (e-mail [gu4yox@cwgsy.net](mailto:gu4yox@cwgsy.net))

We very much hope this article has inspired those of you who are inexperienced in DXing to have a go and work 3B9C. You could be pleasantly surprised at what is possible.

We look forward to putting your call in the log.

### URLs:

3B9C: [www.fsdxa.com/3b9c](http://www.fsdxa.com/3b9c)

DX Lab (includes PropView):

<http://www.qsl.net/dxlab/>

DX Summit (DX spots):

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/>

DX Zone (List of propagation prediction programs): <http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/Propagation/>

VOAcap Download: <http://elbert.its.bldrdoc.gov/hf.html>

W6EL Propagation Software:

### Cork Radio Club

Cork Radio Club held it's Annual Christmas get together on Monday the 15th of December at Wilton Park house.

The club are about to commence their club project. This year it was decided to construct an 80M 500mw CW transmitter. The transmitter consists of just 15 components. The club plan to use the transmitter later in the year in a local DF hunt.

Anyone interested in electronic construction or any aspect of radio, is welcome to attend the club meetings on Monday evenings about 8.30

### East Cork Group

The East Cork Group held their Annual General Meeting recently.

Officers elected were:

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Chairman  | Mannix McAlister EI5HB |
| Secretary | Dave Moore EI4BZ       |
| Treasurer | Jerry Cahill EI6BT     |
| QSL Mngt  | Denis O'Flynn EI6HB.   |

The meeting expressed its thanks to John Hurley EI4DA who allowed the club the use of Poer Head for the past 16 years.

Unfortunately, the property has recently been sold and the group had to move out.

The grip will travel again to Bere Island for this years IOTA contest.

## Fingal Radio Club - Christmas Party 2003



As per usual we decided to have our Party at the EI2FRC HQ. For those that know where we meet (Erin's Isle GAA Club in Finglas), you would be forgiven for thinking that we were going to make full use of our in-house licensed facilities...Not So...

In true ham style, some weeks before our party date, we agreed that we would do ALL our own catering, with our club treasurer, Sean EI7CV charged with the task (well in fairness he did volunteer) of organising the catering requirements and so we set about putting the wheels in motion.

We would require a fleet of microwave ovens, access to a good deli, a supply of fresh vegetables, a champion (home cooked) apple tart maker and the committee (both present and past) to play their role.

All the food was prepared and cooked by Sean (EI7CV) at home in Dunshaughlin and brought up to the Club two hours early for the final preparation.

If you happened to pop in to the club room during our festive feast you would be forgiven for thinking that there were a team of contract caterers hiding in the corner.

With the Trojan effort of Fingal Master Chef Extraordinaire (aka Sean EI7CV) we certainly sat down to a feast truly fit for a king. No expense was spared as we even had our own custom colour menu to peruse. With festive music playing in the background, the tables covered in

gaily coloured red and green table cloths, you would think you were in a cosy restaurant in downtown Dublin if it wasn't for the prices opposite each course on the menu "0.00".

For starters we had piping hot scotch broth soup complimented with Fingal fresh bread rolls.

Following on by a main course of turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, greens, peas and carrots, lightly doused over with a tasty gravy mix.

Then it was on to desert, where home made apple tarts smothered in freshly whipped cream and piping hot custard were placed before us.

Just when we thought it was safe to leave the table on came the mince pies complimented with tea or coffee.

They say the best wine is always saved till last, and this was somewhat the case, (if we can rename the wine...Baileys), as our esteemed Chairman (Chris EI7AAB) appeared to quite literally pulled a rabbit from the hat and produce oodles of Mini-Baileys for each and every member... what a fitting end to a fantastic Fingal Xmas Party.

So there you have it, all I can say is that next years activities will certainly be a hard act to follow.

Aidan EI5HW.  
Hon Secretary, Fingal Radio Club.

## Mayo Radio

### Experimenters Network

MREN will activate a special event station from Mayo to commemorate Irelands upcoming Presidency of the European Union. The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network will operate the special event station EI0EU until the end of June.

The station will be active on all bands and a full program of events will be announced soon.

At the AGM of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network the new committee for 2003/04 was elected and is as follows: Chairperson Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB, Secretary Brendan Minish EI6IZ,

Treasurer is John McDonnell EI6IR P.R.O Frances Taheny EI5J. QSL Mngr Mike Clarke EI3IG Rally Director. Padraic Baynes, EI9JA

The club meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month at 9 p.m. in Stensons Lounge, Ballyvary.

### Shannon Basin Radio Club Challenge

The Shannon Basin Radio Club would like to thank all that took part in the open Radio challenge, which was held on Sunday the 2nd of November 2003.

The closing date for entry returns has now passed, and the group is very pleased with the numbers received from all categories of the challenge.

Over the next number of weeks all the entries will be analysed and the results will be published in Echo Ireland.

Should any of the entrants or members have any suggestions they would like to have considered for the 2004 challenge, will you please forward them to the contest manager.

The Shannon Basin Radio Club would like to wish all a very happy New Year and good DX in 2004, and are looking forward to the next challenge.

### New Abbreviation for the E-mail "@" Sign in Morse

The ITU has now come up with an official recommendation for the @ symbol, as is used in e-mail addresses.

It is "di-dah-dah-di-dah-dit", or "AC" run together.

There is more information about this on the ARRL website.



## Emergency Communications With John Ketch EI2GN

### Amateur Radio Assists in Iran Earthquake Relief

The Radio Communications Voluntary Services UK Newsboard states that The Turkey Amateur Radio Club president, Aziz Sasa, TA1E, reports that four amateur radio operators were among the Turkish teams that provided relief in Iran, following the disastrous earthquake that hit the city of Bam just after Christmas.

Local communications were carried out on 2-metres simplex, with HF operations on 14270 kHz during the day and on 7092 or 3777 kHz after dark.

Soyhan Erim, TA2IJ, part of the Turkish Ministry of Health team, handled HF operations at the Turkish Incident Command Post.

TA2RJ, TA1CAN, and TA2NO were also in Bam as part of the Search and Rescue Teams.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Network (AREN) informed the IARU region one coordinator that they were available to be placed on standby if required and email communications was maintained between the AREN and IARU Region One ARES coordinator throughout the duration of the relief operation.

### AREN Watch.

A twenty four hour AREN watch was successfully completed on December 6th and 7th last.

Between 1200 on December 6th and 1200 December 7th a HF watch was maintained in order to help prepare members for a possible power failure such as those experienced recently in the

US and in the United Kingdom.

The aims of the exercise were to:

- a) *Operate without mains power.*
- b) *Have members available on watch & ready for activation during a sustained standby period.*
- c) *Maintain discipline by checking in to the standby group when available and checking out before leaving.*
- d) *Maintain discipline by operating a silent watch.*
- e) *Share responsibility for coordinating a watch.*
- f) *Implement a signal report system that is unfamiliar.*
- g) *Politely and firmly maintain control of a working frequency for the duration of the exercise.*

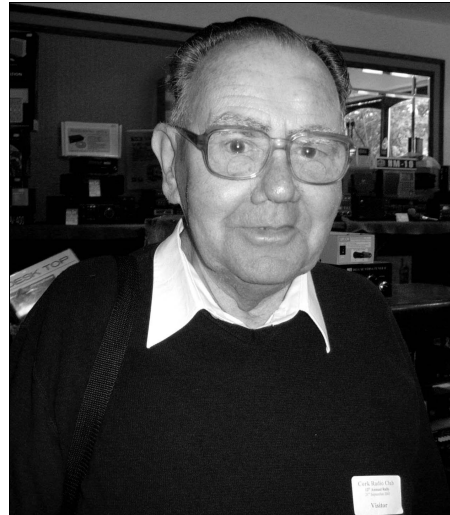
The members of the group demonstrated a keen and effective will to efficiently operate such a service and the primary HF frequency of 3.660 MHz was manned for the duration of the watch period.

Each watch was covered by a backup member, who stood by on both the operational HF frequency and on 144.775 MHz.

### Em-Comm Information

Representatives of the AREN group are available to attend club meetings in order to provide information on the operation of the service.

Clubs or individuals who wish to hear more about the service should contact John Ketch, EI2GN, on ketch@indigo.ie, or by phone 021-4323283 or via IRTS.



Bill Rice EI5FY  
Galway



John Burke EI2JB  
Tipperary

### Useful Software

EI9CSB has informed us of a useful computer program for direction and distance finding called GEO 2005 ES.

In short, if you hear a Locator while listening on a band, you can enter your own locator and the one you heard, right away you have the position of the other station in Degree, Min, Sec., Distance in Nautical Miles and Kilometres plus bearing in degrees.

The program can be downloaded from <http://home19.inet.tele.dk/oz1jm> and is freeware.

While this home page is in Danish, the keywords like download are in English, and the program itself is available in an English language version.

Other amateur programs are also available on this site.

## EI Firsts 70 MHz

| Prefix     | Country         | First QSO                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5B</b>  | Cyprus          | <b>5B/G1JJE + EI3IO</b> - 29th July 2001 (11:49)<br>Current Region 1 Record |
| <b>G</b>   | England         | <b>G6NB + EI2W</b> - 27th Oct 1957                                          |
| <b>GC</b>  | Channel Islands | <b>GC3OBM + EI2W</b> - 12th Sep 1964<br>Pre GU and GJ Prefix                |
| <b>GD</b>  | Isle of Man     | <b>GD3FOC/M + EI2W</b> - 27th Sep 1964                                      |
| <b>GI</b>  | Northern Island | <b>GI3HXV + EI2W</b> - 10th Feb 1962                                        |
| <b>GM</b>  | Scotland        | <b>GM3EGW + EI2W</b> - 16th Feb 1962                                        |
| <b>GW</b>  | Wales           | <b>GW3MDY + EI2W</b> - 12th May 1963                                        |
| <b>OZ</b>  | Denmark         | <b>OZ3ZW + EI7GL</b> - 21st July 2003 (19:17)                               |
| <b>S5</b>  | Slovenia        | <b>S57A + EI7GL</b> - 18th Jun 1998                                         |
| <b>ZB2</b> | Gibraltar       | <b>ZB2VHF + EI6AK</b> - 16th Jun 1967                                       |



# Brian Canning EI8IU in Qatar

I recently had the opportunity to go on holiday to Qatar in the Arabian Gulf along with my XYL and junior op.

For a while leading up to the trip I was a bit sceptical about going due to the situation in the general region but to cut a long story short, we headed for Dublin Airport early on St Stephens morning. We arrived in Doha, (capital of Qatar) at about 2100 local time.

The holiday had begun!

Next morning we were dazzled by the bright sunshine, a bit different from December mornings in Leitrim!

As we were staying with the XYLs sister and her family we didn't have the usual hotel routine of having to be up by a certain time for breakfast etc, so we could come and go as we pleased.

The landscape is very different from here, with vast plains of stony sand waiting to be developed. The country although wealthy is really only now starting to be developed and it is taking place at a phenomenal rate.

Although the country is a peninsula, there are not too many beaches around the capital so we spent a lot of time being shown/driven around by a charming Arab named Saif.

Saif is a very good friend of my sister in laws family and I would now also consider him to be a very good friend of ours.



What has all this got to do with Amateur Radio I hear you ask? Read on!

After about ten days or so I decided to ring directory enquiries to see if there was an Amateur Radio Club in Doha and after being answered in Arabic I was then asked in English (practically everyone can speak fluent English) which number I needed, result!



Saif Al Sulaiti with Brian EI8IU

I got the club number, rang it but just got an Arabic answering machine. I mentioned this to Saif and a couple of days later he told me that he was talking to the club secretary but that I could not use their equipment because they have a reciprocal agreement with the UK only. Not a major problem, as I really only wanted to meet some of the club members for a chat.

The club station was only a 15 minute taxi ride (£1.75) from where we were staying and I was very impressed as I rang the club's doorbell.

It was answered by Bashir who is an administrator and not a ham and who told me the best time to meet club members was the evening time, so I had a quick look at the various antennas used by the club, all of which I would also like to own.

I called back a few evenings later and was greeted by the club secretary Hamad (no call yet) who told me that the club had 55 members, growing slowly, and that I could not unfortunately use their equipment, but to have a look around which I did.

From the picture you can see that they have a very well equipped shack with an FT 1000MP MKV as the main rig and a TS850 as a backup rig. Other rigs include TS130SE, TS790A (all mode tri-bander) IC820H and a PK232 for Packet

etc,. I didn't get the chance to meet any hams, maybe next time!

With a bit of forward planning it would be possible to get a Qatar call and either bring your own gear or use the clubs facilities.

There is only one Ham supplier in Qatar, so maybe that is an opening for a bit of competition?

Otherwise Doha is a shopper's paradise with a number of shopping centres, which would make Liffey Valley look small!

A few facts about Qatar;

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Area             | 11437 Sq KM   |
| Population       | 600000        |
| Rainfall Average | 70mm per year |
| Currency Riyal   | 1€=4 Riyal.   |

The cost of a litre of petrol is 18 cent and the most common car is a 4.5 litre Landcruiser- petrol automatic.

To drive there you would need nerves of steel and a very thick neck! Most roads have 3 lanes in each direction and you just don't get in anyone's way or you



EI8IU in the A71A shack

will be driven off the road. The least used thing is the indicator!

If anyone reading this article should ever get a chance to work in Qatar, take it, as the potential is unending.

I was very reluctant to leave as I really had a fabulous time partying, eating, drinking, sleeping and shopping, which I will be paying for over the next 12 months, so no rallies for me this year! Qatar would be an ideal destination for a dxpedition.

Finally, I must extend my sincere thanks to Danny and Rosaleen Garvey and Saif Al Sulaiti without whom this holiday of a lifetime would not have been possible. For more info on Qatar visit [www.ExperienceQatar.com](http://www.ExperienceQatar.com)

Brian EI8IU



## Daniel Cussen EI9FHB on Eagle Island, F63 Mayo

Daniel EI9FHB operated from Eagle Island Lighthouse which is situated on Eagle Island a short distance off the coast of Mayo. (54°17.0' N, 10°5.5' W). Operating from the rare WAI square Fox 63 and Island EU121 he worked a few EI stations.

Daniel works for the Commissioners of Irish Lights and visits lighthouses regularly for routine checks and repairs. The commissioners of Irish Lights look after all the lighthouses in the 32 counties including many unmanned off-shore lights and buoys.

Flying by helicopter, all lighthouses are visited regularly to ensure these important aids to navigation are kept working.

On Wednesday 10th of December 2003, Daniel flew from Blacksod helipad out to the barren deserted Eagle Island bringing a HF rig in tow. After turning on the heating in the 4 bedroom accommodation he began his routine checks. Eventually time was found on Friday in a busy 5 day schedule to erect the G5RV aerial which was used for all contacts.

Using a Kenwood TS680S, the aerial was checked and found to be faulty. Finding a short in the coax, Daniel replaced one of the PL259 connectors. Band conditions were not great on Friday and Saturday nights, so most of the contacts were made on Sunday. On setting up on Sunday, after gale force winds the night before, there appeared to be an intermittent fault with the aerial. Eventually this was tracked down to a dodgy patch lead and operation was resumed just in time to say "faillte" to Paddy EI7GK who had just finished reading the IRTS news 'as Gaeilge'.

Following the initial contact with Paddy, Noel EI6HW helped control the pileup that ensued for the next hour as word of this unusual square spread. Daniel, being a South Dublin Radio Club member, hoped to contact fellow members and as luck would have it Nick EI2JL appeared on frequency. Daniel travelled back on Monday but will return again in the future. A new QSL card from EI9FHB is also available which features Kinsale Lighthouse.

Regarding operation of other lighthouses in the future, the main places planned are Kish off Dublin, Rockabill off Swords, Mew off County Down, Maidens and Rathlin East off Antrim, Tory off Donegal, Rathlin O Bierne off Donegal, and Blackrock off Mayo.

As operation is very dependant on weather, workload and emergency call-outs, it will not be possible to give exact dates and times of operation in advance in the weekly news but it is hoped to give notice where possible. The worked all Ireland frequencies will be used as much as possible.

Daniel's speciality is electronics which involves installing, repairing and checking complex remote computer monitoring and electronic control systems. These are used to automatically run lighthouses and report faults back to the head office. As well as main VHF radios many lighthouses have radar transponder beacons which are used by boats to fix their position in fog using radar.

A few lighthouses also broadcast GPS position information reliability which is called differential GPS. This increases the accuracy of GPS and is broadcast on long wave frequencies. A few lighthouses also have the new marine Automatic Identification System (AIS) which boats-computers use to talk to each other and relay position information. This is particularly important when large vessels are going around headlands and they cannot see what is at the far side using radar. Using the AIS system and marine channel VHF 87B and 88B both vessels communicate automatically and the position of the other vessel is automatically superimposed on the radar. This system is very similar to the Amateur APRS in that it is a packet based position protocol. AIS is only currently fitted to newer larger vessels and a few lighthouses. For the SWLs out there, listen on 161.975 and 162.025 for data bursts and send in your SWL cards! By the end of 2004 all passenger vessels and all large cargo vessels will be using this system. Another frequency worth monitoring is marine channel 95 (157.775 MHz) which is the private channel used exclusively by Irish Lights. Used by all the crew of the Irish Lights ship the



On 31st March 1988 the lighthouse was converted to automatic

A radio beacon was established on 21st January 1937. This beacon sent out a Morse signal, G L, every six minutes in conjunction with five other radio beacon stations, two in Ireland, one in Scotland, one in the Scilly Islands, and one in France.

From 1st April 1992 the Radio beacon operated continuously, in accordance with new internationally agreed regulations.

The Medium Frequency Radio beacon service was withdrawn on 1st February 1999.

The light was converted to electric on 17th July 1968 with the same character—group flash 3 white every 10 seconds; the candlepower was increased to 1,400,000 and can be seen for twenty six miles.

'Granuaile' and also used for helicopter to lighthouse, and lighthouse to lighthouse communications this frequency is most active during the mornings. For the plane spotters amongst you keep an eye out for EILIT and EIBLD which are the 'Irish Helicopters' choppers used for lighthouse coastal operations. These sometimes uses 129.95 MHz AM for some lighthouse operations as well as marine channel 95.

Irish Lights have a web site which is <http://www.cil.ie>

Below is a copy of all EI and GI stations worked on Sunday 14th of December 2003 on 7.068

|        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| EI2CH  | EI2JL  | EI4HX  |
| EI4IJ  | EI4IQ  | EI5IH  |
| EI6DA  | EI6HW  | EI7GK  |
| EI7IY  | EI9FVB | EI9FXB |
| EI9HX  |        |        |
| GI4MJD | GI4SRQ | GI7JG- |
| MI3PCF |        |        |

Daniel Cussen EI9FHB, can be contacted on 087-7731120

## New 70cms Region 1 Record EI5FK-S5IZO

A new 70 cms IARU Region 1 European record was set during the Aurora of November 20th between EI5FK and S5IZO in Slovenia.

The old record was set in March 13th by PA0FRE and RA3LE and covered a distance of 1851 km, the new record is 1883 km.

Charles was using 50 watts and a 21 element Tonna and also worked 9 German, 2 Dutch, 1 English, 1 Welsh and 1 French station during the opening, all stations were worked on CW

Aurora contacts on 432 MHz are extremely rare and Charles reports just one previous contact on aurora with Simon G3LQR in September 1989 and has listened many times since without hearing other stations.

It seems likely that this is also the first contact between Ireland and Slovenia on 70cms.

A copy of EI5FK's aurora log with Maps can be found on his webpage [www.qsl.net/ei5fk](http://www.qsl.net/ei5fk) where links to IARU region 1 records can also be found.

## The Cost of QSLing Direct

The cost of sending air mail letters abroad to any destination outside Britain is 65c since January 5th last.

This represents a rise of 14.03% on the previous rate of 57c.

The rate to Britain has risen 20% to 60c.

Enquiries at a local post office suggest that International Reply Coupons are no longer available in Ireland.



A serious Mobile Station



## VHF/UHF News

with

Joe Fadden EI3IX

The monthly 4 meter activity period will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month for the coming year.

Activity will begin from 2000 onwards. Monitor frequency will be 70.2625 MHz & 70.200 MHz, all legal modes and antenna polarization can either be vertical or horizontal.

There will also be 4 meter activity periods run directly after the Spring & Autumn 2 meters Counties Contests.

Over the past number of months there has been a significant increase in activity on 4 meters and those interested in getting on the band.

To date most of the activity is mainly in the Dublin, Tipperary, Louth, Cork & Mayo regions.

Some of the active call signs are: EI2HI, EI2JF, EI2IT, EI3BF, EI3IX, EI3ENB, EI3DIB, EI3FFB, EI4HS, EI5GM, EI6AS, EI7BA, EI7IX, EI7FAB & EI9JA.

There are several different ways of getting on air. You can go the PMR route, use a transverter or use one of the few commercially made rigs, Yaesu-FT847 or AKD-4001.

It's only a matter of time before the 4 meter band becomes standard in the multi-band rigs as more countries get 4 meter privileges.

It's not that long ago since EI, M, MI, MM, MW, MD, MJ, MU, ZB & 5B4 were the only administrations with a sec-

ondary allocation on 4 meters.

Now S51, OY, OZ, OX & 9A have access with SP, OH, SV & SM hopefully getting privileges over the next few years.

The Sp-E season this year should be very interesting with all these new Countries on board.

Crossband contacts between 6 meters/4 meters are also sought by many European stations.

As far as awards are concerned, we have the yearly IRTS 4 meter Shield.

The rules are the same as for the 6 meter shield. Number of unique QSO's x the number of Maidenhead squares x the number of DXCC Countries worked.

Further information on the band can be found on EI7GL's webpage along with a host of other VHF info.

The web address is [www.qsl.net/ei7gl](http://www.qsl.net/ei7gl)  
<<http://www.qsl.net/ei7gl>>

There is also a dedicated 4 meters webpage which provides all you need to know about the band [www.70mhz.net](http://www.70mhz.net)  
<<http://www.70mhz.net>>.

It also includes the callsigns of active 4 meter stations across the UK & Ireland, beacon info etc.

It's also worth noting that there is now a 4 meter Echolink gateway on 70.3875MHz (F3E) in Strabane which is run by Chris GIOVJE and the link is identified on the echolink server as GIOVJE-L.



Gareth EI7FZB, Robbie EI8FZB & Eoin EI7FXB  
all from Waterford



## Worked All Zones Award

The CQ Worked All Zones Award (WAZ) and its variations are issued to any licensed Radio Amateur Station presenting proof of contact with all 40 CQ Zones.

This proof consists of proper QSL cards; which in many cases may be checked by any of the authorized check points or sent directly to the WAZ Award Manager.

The WAZ Program is one of the longest running in Ham Radio, having its start prior to WWII.

The WAZ program, while it involves the use of "DX Entities", does not rely on any particular "Entity's" status as a country.

The WAZ award is geographically focused, which is where it's challenge lies.

WAZ Award correspondence can be directed to the WAZ Award Manager:

Floyd Gerald,

17 Green Hollow Rd.

Wiggins,

MS 39577, USA

e-mail: n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com

Application Form, Rules and Zone Map are available in .PDF format from the CQ Magazine WAZ Rules web page: [www.cq-amateur-radio.com/wazrules.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/wazrules.html)

This information is also available from either the WAZ Award Manager or CQ Magazine in hardcopy.

Mail your request for WAZ information to either of the addresses shown above. Please include a business size SAE with

two units of postage (for US stations) or \$2.00 with your request.

Foreign stations may supply a return mailing label and 3 IRC's.

Please indicate on the back of your envelope "WAZ Info Request" so we can spot your letter easier and reply quickly.

The WAZ Award is available in mixed mode, AM, SSB, CW, RTTY, SSTV or Digital.

It is available for any single mode on 80 through 10 metres and for mixed mode only on 160m, 6m, satellite or EME.

### 5 Band WAZ

Applicants who succeed in presenting proof of contact with the 40 zones of the world on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands (for a total of 200) receive a special certificate in recognition of this achievement.

**Note:** A prerequisite for 5 Band WAZ is that the applicant must already be a holder of any 40 zone WAZ.

The number, date, award type must be indicated on the 5BWAZ application.

The first plateau is a total of 150 zones across any combination of the 5 bands listed above. A certificate will be issued with a unique award number, indicating the initial number of zones confirmed.

After reaching the 150 zone plateau, each 10 zones requires the submission of QSL cards and the application fee.

Upon reaching 200 zones confirmed, the applicant will be issued a 200 zones en-

dorsement sticker to affix to their 5BWAZ certificate that was previously issued. No other endorsement stickers are issued.

Upon reaching the 200 zones level, the applicant may wish to purchase an engraved plaque to acknowledge the achievement.

### MODES: Mixed Mode ONLY.

The 5 Band WAZ Award is not available for any single mode.

**QSLs accepted:** Contacts must have been made after 0000Z January 1, 1979.

### General Rules

All QSO's must be made by a licensed Amateur Radio Operator, from a licensed Amateur Radio station, using only modes of emission and transmitter output power as permitted by the local licensing authority. QSO's with stations other than Radio Amateur (such as MARS, Commercial or Military) are ineligible for the WAZ award.

All QSO's must be conducted within the radio spectrum as authorized for that licensee by the local licensing authority.

Any WAZ applicant found to be operating outside the bounds of their license may be disqualified from the WAZ program.

All contacts must be made from within the same DXCC Entity.

QSO's made by the same applicant using previous call signs from that same DXCC entity are acceptable.

Proof of holding those previous call signs is requested.

The Official CQ WAZ Zone Map and the printed zone list are used to determine the zone in which a station is located.

If a problem is found with your application or QSL cards, we will attempt to contact you via e-mail to inform you of the issue and attempt to resolve it with you. We REALLY don't want to return your application if we don't have to.

The submission of any WAZ award application acknowledges consent to abide by the decisions of the CQ WAZ Manager and the CQ Awards Committee.

Decisions of the CQ DX Advisory Committee on any matter pertaining to the administration of this award are final.

CQ Magazine administers the following award schemes.

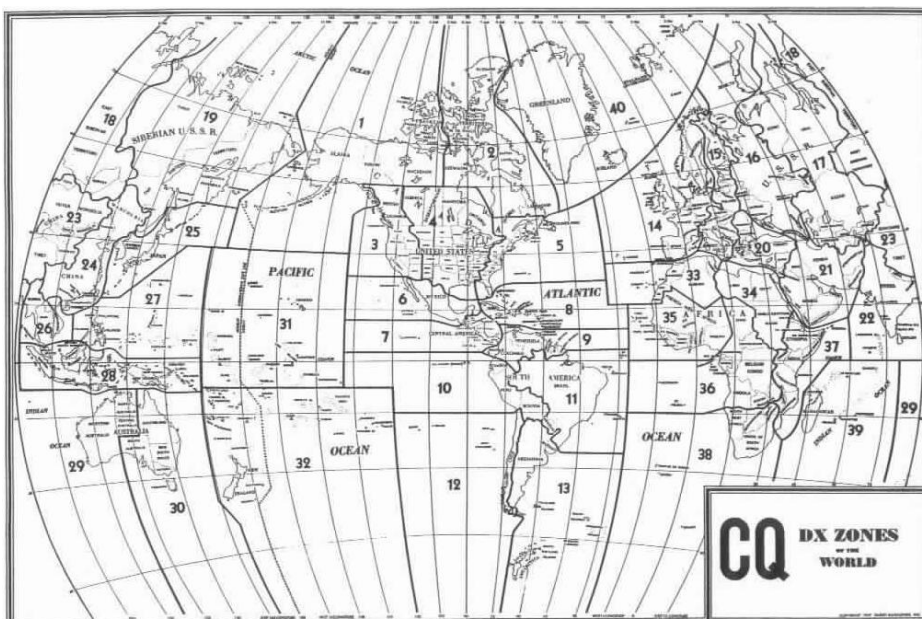
CQ DX Award (DXCC Entities)

CQ Worked All Zones Award

CQ WPX Award (Prefixes)

The USA-CA Award (US Counties)

We will look at each of these award schemes in future issues.



NOTE: This map is a reproduction of the official 1947 CQ WAZ map, and is intended to be used for general reference only. Over the years numerous adjustments have been made to Zone boundaries for various reasons. Always consult the latest CQ WAZ Rules for the most up-to-date Zone delineations.

# South Dublin Radio Club



## EI2SDR ARRL 10m Contest 2003

Joe EI7GY, Alan GI6IXD, Tony EI7JN, Nicki EI9JF, Tom EI7HT, Mark EI6JK, Kyle EI2JO

SDR members were delighted recently to welcome to their club night a visitor, Chris LX1KC, who was on holidays in Ireland with his XYL.

Chris is a well known "big signal" on 40 metres SSB, and has had many QSOs with EIs. Chris was able to deliver personally his QSL cards to SDR members he had been in contact with.

### Visit to Dublin Port Radio Centre

16 members of South Dublin Radio Club were guests of Dublin Port Radio on Tuesday 13th January. They were shown the radio and radar equipment that is used to control shipping in the Dublin Port and Dublin Bay area. The SDR members found it interesting to see radio being used in a very different way to amateur radio. Dublin Port Radio helps to keep the shipping lanes in the approach to Dublin safe, requiring a high level of vigilance and professionalism on the part of the staff.

Pictures of both of these events can be seen on the SDR web site, which is at <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/>

### Spring Challenge

We would like to remind radio experimenters that SDR Spring Challenge time has come around again: The purpose of this challenge is to encourage radio experimenters to be active on the HF bands. The "challenge" is to work as many DXCC countries on as many HF bands as possible during the month of February. Full rules are available on the club's web site [www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/](http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/) (or see page 18 of the 2003 IRTS Year Book

### Autumn Challenge

At the recent SDR Christmas Party, the winners of the club's Autumn Challenge were announced. Mark Condon EI6JK won the Open Section, Joe EI7GY was the winner of the restricted, CW only, section (to win the prize, Joe concentrated on 30 metres for the month of November), while Thos EI2JD won the VHF section, with a combination of 2 metre and 6 metre contacts.

South Dublin Radio Club recently held a photo competition among its members. 70 photos in all were entered. The competition categories included a number of amateur radio related pictures. The winners were announced on Tuesday 9th December. Brian Cusack EI7FB, one of the founders of SDR, who is a professional photographer, was the judge. In announcing the winners, Brian made the point that some of the winning entries were well up to professional standards.

The first prize went to Charlie EI7HG, with his "UFO Footprint" photo taken on Banna Strand. Other prize winners were Kyle EI2JO (one of his pictures is a most unusual close-up of a printed circuit board), Jim GI0BJH, Mark EI9IB, Alan GI6IXD and Tom EI7HT. All of the winning pictures can be seen on the club's web site <http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/> and are well worth viewing.

## Glengormley Electronics & Amateur Radio Society

### Annual Inter Club Quiz

After the success of last years event, GEARS are once again running an Inter Club Quiz Challenge, for the GEARS Perpetual Trophy.

The event will take place on Friday 27th February 2004 at 8pm in the club premises, Knockagh Lodge, Greenisland - directions on [www.knockaghlodge.com](http://www.knockaghlodge.com) and it is hoped that last year's winners the South Dublin Radio Club will be returning to defend their title.

A cordial invitation is extended to all, whether members of clubs or not to enter a team for the event - all are welcome including YL's and XYL's

Last year six clubs were represented, and this year we would like to see representation from the rest of the clubs in GI and EI, as well as those who supported last year's event - we may even try to persuade the new president of the RSGB to attend, further info can be obtained from any club member, or by e-mail to [info@gn0xyz.com](mailto:info@gn0xyz.com)

Looking forward to seeing you all on 27th Feb

### New map of Irish Lighthouses and Lightships available

A map of Irish Lighthouses and Lightships is now available at <http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/maps/lighthouse.html>

When viewed with Internet Explorer, additional features are available, including identifier-boxes for each point on the map, and a sortable database that can be used off-line, with information on ARLHS number, county, position, light and tower details.

## 4 Metre Activity Nights

**First Tuesday every month**

**70.2625 MHz FM**



# Contest Corner

With  
Dave EI4BZ  
ei4bz@eircom.net

## EI Logging Accuracy in IOTA 2003

By Paul EI5DI

IOTA entrants from Ireland with listed claimed and actual scores.

|        | Claimed   | Actual    | % Loss |
|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| EI5DI  | 26,976    | 26,880    | 0.4    |
| EI7CC  | 280,053   | 278,721   | 0.5    |
| EI8GS  | 805,068   | 785,460   | 2.4    |
| EJ9HQ  | 542,159   | 528,838   | 2.5    |
| EI4DW  | 188,082   | 181,815   | 3.3    |
| EI6IZ  | 165,504   | 160,083   | 3.3    |
| EI4CF  | 322,125   | 307,377   | 4.6    |
| EI7GY  | 270,072   | 257,310   | 4.7    |
| EJ7M   | 2,030,976 | 1,924,428 | 5.2    |
| EI2II  | 147,609   | 139,275   | 5.6    |
| EI8JM  | 78,351    | 73,728    | 5.9    |
| EI7IQ  | 470,979   | 428,409   | 9.0    |
| EJ2SDR | 2,123,712 | 1,853,304 | 13.1   |

In the IOTA contest, callsigns, serials and island references are cross-checked in all entries, and points are lost for any discrepancies between logs.

Errors are costly - some stations are effectively throwing away more than 10% of all QSOs logged.

For multi-op entries, it's important that each operator does his/her own logging. Otherwise the error rate will be higher due to the operator saying one thing and the logger logging something else - the operator does not see typing mistakes and therefore cannot correct them.

## IOTA 2004

Plans are already being made for this years IOTA Contest. The East Cork group plan a return trip to Bere Island but this year they will operate in the open section.

The crew at EI9E are planning s visit to the Saltee Islands and their entry is likely to be in the restricted section.

At the time of writing we are not aware of the intentions of the South Dublin/ Gears Group are. They travelled to Inishbofin in 2003.

Another regular who missed last years event is IRTS President Sean EI4GK. HE will no doubt resume battle in the coming year.

Please keep us posted on your plans.

## 2003 SSB Field Day Results

|              | Call     | QSOs | Mults | Points  |
|--------------|----------|------|-------|---------|
| Open Section |          |      |       |         |
| 1            | EI1C/p   | 1571 | 169   | 912,769 |
| 2            | EI2SDR/p | 866  | 139   | 442,576 |
| 3            | EI4F/p   | 499  | 81    | 149,364 |

|                    |         |     |     |         |
|--------------------|---------|-----|-----|---------|
| Restricted Section |         |     |     |         |
| 1                  | EI1DD/p | 478 | 103 | 204,146 |
| 2                  | EI4BZ/p | 363 | 76  | 113,012 |
| 3                  | EI2SBC  | 382 | 69  | 108,330 |
| 4                  | EI7GY/p | 204 | 50  | 44,850  |

### Operators

|         |                                                  |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------|
| EI1C/p  | EI5GM, EI8IR                                     |
| EI2SDR  | EI4HH, EI6JK, EI7HT, EI9FHB                      |
| EI4F/p  | EI9HQ, EI4GK                                     |
| EI1DD/p | EI2CA, EI5DI, EI5HD, EI6EW, EI7CC, EI7CD, EI7CE  |
| EI4BZ/p | EI4BZ, EI2II                                     |
| EI2SBC  | EI6IB, EI9HX, EI6HW, EI3HA, EI8IU, EI4CF, EI5EAB |
| EI5GY/p | EI5GY Single Op.                                 |

All stations except EI1C/p (from Cork) operated from a central location in Ballinasloe.

### Sprint Contest

A mini-sprint contest was run for stations on-site in Ballinasloe between 2000 & 2359. The prizes for this were specially inscribed Dublin Crystal paperweights presented by Paul EI2CA.

The results of this were as follows:

| Open Section |     | Restricted Section |     |
|--------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| 1. EI2SDR/p  | 711 | 1. EI1DD/p         | 467 |
| 2. EI4F/p    | 548 | 2. EI2SBC          | 427 |
| 3. EI7GY/p   | 329 |                    |     |
| 4. EI4BZ/p   | 261 |                    |     |

*Results by Noel EI2JC, IRTS Contest Manager*

## IRTS Contest Trophies 2004

### Trophy

|             |                     |                   |                    |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| April 12th  | 2m Counties Contest |                   |                    |
| June 5/6th  | CW Field Day        | Pete Daly Cup     | Open Section       |
|             |                     | Paddy Smyth Cup   | Restricted Section |
| July 3/4th  | VHF/UHF Field Day   | Thomond Trophy    | Open Section       |
|             |                     | IRTS VHF Shield   | Restricted Section |
| Aug. 29th   | 2m Counties Contest |                   |                    |
| Sept. 4/5th | SSB Field Day       | Paddy Daly Trophy | Open Section       |
|             |                     | IRTS HF Shield    | Restricted Section |

### Other IRTS Contest Trophies

|              |                    |             |                  |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| July 24/25th | Islands On The Air | DX Cup      | Top EI Single Op |
|              |                    | IOTA Trophy | Top EJ station   |
|              |                    | Hal Hodgens | Top EI S.O. 12hr |

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## Final Squares Table 2003

| Callsign | 6m  | 4m | 2m  | 70cm | 23cm | Total |
|----------|-----|----|-----|------|------|-------|
| EI2JD    | 331 | 2  | 53  | 4    | 0    | 390   |
| EI8JK    | 243 | 0  | 87  | 17   | 5    | 352   |
| EI5FK    | 100 | 2  | 145 | 59   | 0    | 306   |
| EI3IO    | 278 | 19 | 1   | 1    | 0    | 299   |
| EI7BMB   | 267 | 0  | 29  | 0    | 0    | 296   |
| EI7IX    | 205 | 1  | 1   | 0    | 0    | 207   |
| EI3IX    | 164 | 2  | 7   | 2    | 0    | 175   |
| EI3EBB   | 137 | 0  | 10  | 2    | 0    | 149   |
| EI7GL    | 48  | 10 | 24  | 5    | 0    | 87    |
| EI2IV    | 0   | 0  | 70  | 0    | 0    | 70    |
| EI2HI    | 0   | 4  | 33  | 17   | 0    | 54    |
| EI7IW    | 2   | 0  | 29  | 2    | 0    | 33    |
| EI7IR    | 0   | 0  | 29  | 0    | 0    | 29    |
| EI7FAB   | 3   | 3  | 7   | 2    | 0    | 15    |

New entries and updates for 2004 to  
Joe EI3IX joe\_fadden@yahoo.com

## South Dublin Radio Club Spring Challenge

The "challenge" is to work as many DXCC countries on as many HF bands as possible during the month of February. Full rules are available on the club's web site  
www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/ (or see page 18 of the 2003 IRTS Year Book)

## Members Advertisements

For Sale: Yaesu HF Transceiver FT 980  
C.A.T. €875.00

Yaesu FIF232C for computer control of  
FT980 ...€50.00

Yaesu MDI-B8 Dynamic desk micro-  
phone with scanning switch with fist  
microphone MH-1B8...€75.00

MFJ 482B Grandmaster memory key-  
ing unit. 8-50 wpm ...€80.00

MFJ 949E deluxe Versa Tuner 11. Ae-  
rial Tuning Unit. Reading forward and  
reflected power, 30w, peak/average/  
dummy load. ...€120.00

Also bug and straight Morse keys.

Handbooks for all above equipment  
which has seen very little use.

Buy the lot for €1,000.00

Contact Alfred EI4GM.

01-2888137 or 086-2488432

### Wanted:

Battery case BP4 for Icom 2E.

Contact Pat EI6HF on 059-9140086 or  
087-6716895

**For Sale:** FT-221R, 2 Metre VHF Trx.  
144.00-148.00 MHz. All Mode. Built in  
Power Supply. Solid State.  
External Digital Read-out YC221.  
Manual, Mic Metered.  
Best offer to EI8BR.  
Phone 01-2809382 anytime

**For Sale:** Kenwood TS2000. Mint with  
all software, cables and manuals  
(including service manual).  
Reluctant sale, sensible offers around  
€1800.00 please.  
Richard EI2ID.  
086-1588891 day; 021-4668250 eve.

**Members Adverts are free**

## Caravan/Camping Rally

Would any caravan or camping enthu-  
siasts be interested in getting involved  
in a rally at a site to be decided during  
the summer months.

If interested, please contact Dave  
EI4BZ.

Phone 021-4883555 evenings or 087-  
6290574.

ei4bz@eircom.net

**Phoenix Amateur Radio Club**  
**Annual Radio Rally**

**Coolmine Community School**

**Sunday February 8th 2003**

**Doors open at 1200**

**Admission 3 Euros**

**Car Parking available**

**Tea Bar and Sandwiches**

**Further details from Tony EI7GI on 01-8252074**

**Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club**  
**23rd Annual Amateur Radio Show**  
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**Enniskillen**

**Sunday April 25th 2004**

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Mob: 087-2513772

## ICOM IC-2725E NEW

€475



The Icom IC-2725 dual band FM transceiver is proving very popular. Easy to install, the controller is separated from the main unit - great where space is limited.

## ICOM IC-207H

€369



Great budget price dual band FM 50W/35W transceiver. Simple band operation. Front panel detachable from main unit if required.

## ICOM IC-2100H

€339



2m 55W FM mobile. Commercial grade, rugged construction. One piece die-cast aluminium chassis. Selectable green or amber display.

## YAESU FT-8900R NEW

€519

Want the best of all worlds then the FT-8900R is just the ticket! A rig with four of the most popular mobile bands - 10m/6m/2m & 70cm. Detachable head. Airband Receive.



## YAESU FT-2800M NEW

€259

The FT-2800M 2m FM 65W High Power mobile transceiver. Rugged construction, excellent receiver performance and direct keypad entry.



## YAESU FT-1500M

£179 B

Remarkably small and compact, yet built like a Battleship! Should last for years.



## KENWOOD TMD-700E

€669



Certainly the best dual band mobile transceiver with APRS. Does not need extra high cost boards to function. The only extra if required is a compatible GPS receiver.

## KENWOOD TS-870S DSP

€2089



HF DSP 100W base station. Excellent all round rig great for DX working with its ability to winkle out weak stations using its true IF DSP. No filters to buy.

## KENWOOD TS-570DGE

€1269



HF100W base station with built-in auto ATU. Very popular rig, excellent performance on SSB and CW. Two fitted antenna sockets - very handy.

## YAESU FT-1000 MKV

€3499



200W HF transceiver, EDSP, Collins filter, auto ATU, 220V AC PSU - Acknowledged as one of the finest DX rigs on the market. Superb tailored audio and the ability to select Class A bias for dramatic signal purity.

## YAESU FT-1000 FIELD

€2599



100W HF transceiver, EDSP, Collins filter, auto ATU, 220V AC / 13.8V DC - Building on the success of the FT-1000MKV, the Field has become a respected leader in its class.

## YAESU FT-897 NEW

€1475



100W HF rig plus 2m and 70cms (50W/20W) 13.8V external supply / internal optional FP-30V AC power supply / self powered portable using optional Ni-MH pack at 20W output. Compatible with FC-30 auto ATU and ATAS 120/100 antennas. The "must have" radio for 2003.

## YAESU FT-857 NEW

€1195



HF/50/144/430MHz Mobile Transceiver HF/6m 100W, 2m 50W, 70cm 20W. (13.8V DC) Developed on the FT-897 and FT-817 transceivers. Built-in features 32 colour display, spectrum scope, AM airband receive, built-in memory keyer, detachable front panel, DSP unit supplied.

## YAESU FT-847

£1199 C



1.8 to 440MHz, this all-in-one transceiver offers unbeatable value. 100W on HF plus 6m, and 50W on 2m and 70cm. You get genuine RF clipping on SSB for up to 6dB gain and there are 4 separate antenna sockets.

## ICOM IC-756 PRO II

€2985



Flagship of the Icom range of HF transceivers. HF & 50MHz, features large colour LCD with spectrum scope, auto ATU and 32-bit floating point DSP unit.

## ICOM IC-7400

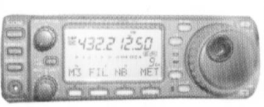
€1939



HF/VHF 100W transceiver. Features large LCD with spectrum scope, auto ATU and same DSP system as IC-756PRO II.

## ICOM IC-706 IIG DSP

€1195



HF/VHF/UHF mobile DSP transceiver. Its relative small size not only makes it a great mobile rig but also for fixed station use as well. HF general coverage Rx and VHF & UHF.

## ICOM IC-703 NEW

€895



HF/50MHz Transceiver 0.1-10W Portable, Mobile, Base Station. (9-15.87V DC) Designed especially for the Foundation Licence/QRP. Built-in features auto ATU, DSP memory keyer. (5W when using 9.6V batts)

## ICOM IC-718

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HF 100W transceiver. Covers all HF bands plus wideband receive. C/w auto notch, dual VFO, SWR meter etc. Options include extn ATU DSP & filters.

## ICOM IC-910X with 23cm

€1869



Icom's all mode VHF/UHF transceiver with 23cm. Large clear LCD with lots of facilities. 100W on VHF and 75W on UHF, 10W on 23cm. IC-910H version £1149

## KENWOOD TS-2000

€2389



Top-of-the-range 100W Kenwood transceiver. HF/VHF/UHF or up to 23cm with the optional module. Built-in auto ATU, DSP and its unique TNC.